

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

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SUBJECT: JUNE 18, PRESS SUMMARY

1. AP WASHINGTON REMINDS THAT THIS BREZHNEV WEEK MAY BRING
SHOWDOWN ON EAGLETON AND CASE- CHURCH AMENDMENTS NOW IN

CONFERENCE (SUN, PHINQ). UPI WASHINGTON SUGGESTS EMMET KAY WAS ENGAGED IN CIA MISSION WHEN HIS PLANE WENT DOWN NE OF PDJ MAY 7. DOS ACKNOWLEDGES KAY SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS IN VIENTIANE BETWEEN US EMBASSY AND PL. CONTINENTAL AIRLINES SPOKESMAN SAYS KAY WORKED FOR THEM FOR FOUR YEARS AND COMPLAINS THAT PEOPLE ALWAYS CONFUSE CONTINENTAL WITH AIR AMERICA - WHICH IS "A PAIN IN THE NECK" BECAUSE AIR AMERICA IS "CIA'S AIRLINE." (PHINQ). CANADIAN ICCS DEL SAYS ICCS CHOPPER CARRYING ICCS PERSONNEL OVER VC- CONTROLLED AREA NEAR AN LOC HIT BY SINGLE BULLET. COMMUNIST ATTACKS DROP SHARPLY OVER SVN BUT GVN SAYS IT'S TOO SOON TO DETECT TREND. FANK WITH USAF SUPPORT RECAPTURES KEY CROSSROADS VILLAGE ON HIGHWAY 4. GRUNK US PARIS DECLARES IT WON'T ACCEPT SETTLEMENT IMPOSED BY US AND HANOI (CHITRIB, WP, PHINQ).

2. NYT'S BUTTERFIELD REPORTS ONLY SPORADIC FIGHTING IN SVN SINCE FRIDAY, WITH MOST SERIOUS NEAR KONTUM WHERE 58 ARVN MISSING AND 27 COMMUNISTS KILLED. ONE RANKING US EMBASSY AIDE SAYS: "IT'S WORKING THIS TIME." ANOTHER NOTES NO MAJOR COMMUNIST LAND-GRABS SINCE FRIDAY AND NO

USE OF SOVIET TANKS. BUT ARVN OFFICER AND APPARENTLY MANY SOUTH VIETNAMESE BELIEVE COMMUNISTS WILL ATTACK AGAIN WHEN IT SUITS THEM. EMBASSY AIDE SAYS MOSCOW AND PEKING HAVEN'T SHIPPED MUCH HEAVY STUFF INTO NVN SINCE JANUARY AND HAVE ADVISED DRV TO KEEP FIGHTING DOWN (NYT).

3. POST'S LIPPMAN IN SAIGON REPORTS ONLY FEEBLE CHALLENGE BY THIEU'S POLITICAL OPPOSITION AS AUGUST 26 ELECTIONS CANDIDACY LISTS CLOSE. TWO FULL PRO-GVN SLATES BUT ONLY TOKEN OPPOSITION LIST PRESENTED. EARLIER RUMOR THAT KY AND MINH WOULD JOIN TO PUT UP MAJOR OPPOSITION SLATE FAILED TO MATERIALIZE. THIEU SUPPORTERS EXPECTED TO WIN ALL 31 SEATS UP THIS YEAR, GIVING HIM OVERPOWERING MAJORITY (WP).

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4. AP SAIGON REPORTS (SUN) TWO USAF CREWMEN KILLED IN CHOPPER CRASH 100 MILES NW OF PP. THIRD MISSING AND TWO OTHERS PARACHUTED TO SAFETY. CAUSE UNKNOWN. GVN SPOKESMAN SAYS 136 COMMUNIST TROOPS KILLED SINCE RENEWED C-F: GVN LOSSES 52 KIA, 68 MIA, 183 WIA. SUN'S WOODRUFF IN HONG KONG REPORTS DRV MEDIA ARE PUBLICIZING BUT NOT EMPHASIZING NEW PARIS COMMUNIQUE REFERENCE TO ARTICLE 20 OF VN AGREEMENT. HANOI HAS FLATLY DENIED LAM ASSERTION THAT UNPUBLISHED UNDERSTANDING ON LAOS AND CAMBODIA WAS REACHED AT PARIS (SUN).

5. CDN'S LARRY GREEN (JUNE 12), IN SAIGON REPORTS US COMMAND IN THAILAND SECRETLY MADE PLANS FOR BOMBING IN

SVN THOUGH THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS US ABOUT TO RESUME BOMBING THERE. MAJ. GEN. COOKSEY MADE MAY 7 AND 15 VISITS TO SVN TO MEET WITH ARVN REGIONAL COMMANDERS OF DANANG AND CAN THO, ACCORDING RELIABLE SOURCES, TO ASK WHAT SORT OF AIR SUPPORT THEY WOULD NEED FROM US IN EVENT OF MAJOR NEW COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE. AFTER VISITS, DAO'S OFFICE IN SAIGON WAS ASKED TO SELECT TARGETS FOR POSSIBLE B52 RAIDS. RELIABLE BUT UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SAY DIA ANALYSTS WORKING IN DAO'S OFFICE WERE RELUCTANT PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING BECAUSE OF QUESTIONS ABOUT LEGALITY IN VIEW OF TRUCE AGREEMENT. SOURCES ALSO SAY US OFFICIALS IN VN ARE DISTURBED ABOUT THE PLANNING, WHICH APPARENTLY BEGAN WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF SOME KEY EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

6. NYT'S SHIPLER IN HONOLULU REPORTS HIGH- RANKING US OFFICIALS SAY US PLANES NOW BEING KEPT OUT OF TWO- MILE BUFFER ZONE ON KHMER SIDE OF BORDER WITH SVN TO REDUCE CHANCES OF US PLANES VIOLATING C- F BY STRAYING OVER BORDER. OFFICIALS RELUCTANT DISCUSS ZONE FOR FEAR NVA/ VC WILL TAKE

ADVANTAGE OF IT FOR USE AS DEPOT AND BASE CAMP AREA (NYT).

7. JERRY WARREN AT KEY BISCAYNE ENDS TALK OF A WH SNUB OF WHITLAM. SAYS PRESIDENT WILL SEE WHITLAM NEXT MONTH AND ONLY THING TO BE ARRANGED IS MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DATE. AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS CONFIRM VISIT TO TAKE PLACE (WP).

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8. UPI PARIS REPORTS OPPOSITION LEADER BILLY SNEDDEN IN VISIT TO FRANCE SAID TRADE UNION BOYCOTTS AGAINST FRENCH PRODUCTS THREATEN AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSE CAPABILITY (NYDN).

9. AP TOKYO REPORTS PRC DOESN' T WANT ITS PLANES, AND THOSE FROM TAIWAN TO BE AT TOKYO AIRPORT AT SAME TIME, SO GOJ HAS PROPOSED THAT PRC PLANES USE NEW NARITA AIRPORT WHILE THOSE FROM TAIWAN USE HANEDA (NYDN). GOJ PLAN TO LIBERALIZE IMPORTS OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS IN 1974 AND COMPUTERS IN 1973 APPROVED BY CABINET, THUS REMOVING MAJOR TRADE PROBLEM WITH US. NAKASONE SAYS HE BELIEVES " FRICTIONS" BETWEEN US AND JAPAN " WILL NOW DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY" (JOC). PHILIP MORRIS AND JAPAN' S CIGARETTE MONOPOLY SIGN LICENSE AGREEMENT TO PRODUCE MARLBOROS IN JAPAN; FIRST SUCH PACT BY US COMPANY (JOC).

10. TIDAL WAVE CAUSED BY ONE OF THREE MAJOR EARTHQUAKES WITHIN 24 HOURS WREAKS HEAVY DAMAGE IN HOKKAIDO (WP).

11. AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR GENERAL SAYS UNINSPECTED MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS FROM PRC WERE ILLEGALLY IMPORTED WITHOUT INSPECTION AND SOLD IN SEVERAL MAJOR US CITIES LAST YEAR (NYT, WP). WP ADDS THAT LARGE

AMOUNTS OF " IMPURE" MEAT ARE STILL SHIPPED INTO US FROM AUSTRALIA AND NZ.

12. JOE ALSOP (WP OP ED, SUN OP ED), REFERRING TO BREZHNEV VISIT IN CONTEXT OF " SOVIET- AMERICAN- CHINESE GREAT POWER TRIANGLE," SAYS PRESIDENT' S SHORT- TERM PURPOSE IS TO DO EVERYTHING HE CAN TO STRENGTHEN KREMLIN' S OPPONENTS OF SOVIET ATTACK ON CHINA BY MAKING GENUINE SOVIET- WESTERN DETENTE LOOK AS ATTRACTIVE AS POSSIBLE. IN ACHIEVING THIS PURPOSE, ACCORDING ALSOP, PRESIDENT HAMPERED BY WATERGATE, AND BY JACKSON AMENDMENT, WHICH WOULD DENY SOVIETS KIND OF TRADE RELATIONSHIPS THEY NEED TO DO MAJOR BUSINESS WITH THE US.

13. LAT' S ELEGANT (PT. I, P. 14), IN HONG KONG, RELATES PRC BLACKOUT ON WATERGATE TO LEADERSHIP CONCERN OVER IMPACT OF SCANDAL ON CONTINUED POWER OF CHOU. CONSENSUS UNCLASSIFIED

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OF OBSERVERS AND DIPLOMATS IS THAT CHOU HAS CONSISTENTLY DEPENDED ON EXTERNAL TRIUMPHS TO MAINTAIN HIS PRECARIOUS POSITION AT HOME. PRESENT MODERATE PEKING LEADERSHIP FEARS THAT PRESIDENT WILL LOSE ABILITY TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY - EITHER THROUGH IMPEACHMENT OR THROUGH SCANDAL' S EROSION OF HIS PERSONAL POWER AND PRESTIGE. PEKING IS EVEN MORE IMMEDIATELY WORRIED ABOUT DIMINUTION OF HAK' S INFLUENCE. CHOU HAS ALREADY FOUGHT ONE BLOODY BATTLE TO FORCE HIS FOREIGN POLICY ON HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS - A BATTLE THAT ENDED WITH DEATH OF LIN PIAO. BUT OTHER ENEMIES ARE WAITING FOR A SUBSTANTIAL FAILURE IN HIS FOREIGN POLICIES. ECLIPSE OF HAK WOULD GIVE CHOU' S ENEMIES A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR ATTACK, SINCE THE AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP, CONTRACTED ORIGINALLY WITH HAK RATHER THAN NIXON, IS BASIS FOR CHOU' S FOREIGN POLICY.

14. SUN SAYS IT DIFFICULT DISCERN IN EXISTING CAMBODIAN SITUATION ANY REASON FOR HAK' S CAUTIOUSLY ROSY VIEW THAT CAMBODIA C- F MAY BE CONCLUDED IN A FEW WEEKS. DIFFICULT UNLESS US RECOGNIZES THAT THIS ESSENTIALLY CIVIL WAR; THAT SUPPORTING LON NOL REGIME BY BOMBS IS DOOMED ANYWAY, AND PERHAPS EVEN THAT PROSPECT OF DEALING WITH SIHANOUK, FOR WHOSE DEFECTION FROM NEUTRALITY WE WERE IN LARGE PART RESPONSIBLE, MAY NOT BE MOST AWFUL OF POSSIBILITIES. ROGERS

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